

A red watering can is shown from a high angle, pouring a stream of water onto a single red daisy flower with a yellow center. The flower is on a green stem and is situated in a field of green grass. The background is a clear blue sky with some light, wispy clouds. The overall scene is bright and vibrant.

Be water wise  
in the garden

*"I like my drinks  
early in the morning  
or late at night"*

## Be water wise in the garden

During the summer the amount of water we use in gardens can soar by up to 70% of our daily total. There are lots of ways to enjoy a healthy, green garden and protect the environment without using lots of water.

We have produced this booklet which contains lots of tips and advice on how to save water in the garden whilst still having a lovely garden to enjoy.





## Watering

Watering is best done in early morning and during evenings.

Watering when the sunlight is not strong reduces evaporation and avoids scorching plant leaves.

Rain water harvesting (using water butts) is very important.

Rain water is soft and is good to water rhododendrons and other acid plants growing in pots in alkaline areas like southern England.

Use a watering can where possible.

Carefully water the garden, avoid spraying patios, other hard surfaces and paths.

Don't water established trees, shrubs and lawns – they don't need it.

“

Water is a precious resource,  
used wisely will benefit gardeners  
and reduce water wastage.

”





## Mulches

Well rotted compost, manure, bark chips, mushroom manure, leaf mould, grass cuttings, shredded prunings, are all good mulches.

Mulch 50mm deep, will conserve water in soil and inhibit moisture evaporation by up to 90%.

Mulches reduce leaching of minerals and nutrients from soil and hold rain water in soil for weeks rather than days.

Mulches promote strong healthy growth; plants are not stressed or checked by water loss.

Mulches suppress weed growth and encourage invertebrates, insects, which provide food for birds and other wildlife.





## Composting green waste

Compost can be produced in plastic or wooden types of composters or free standing compost heaps.

To accelerate decomposition add sulphate of ammonia (SAM) for every 150mm layer of green waste to be composted.

The naturally occurring bacteria which breakdown green waste need nitrogen to help in the breakdown of green waste.

Please wear gloves when handling SAM. Apply two handfuls per square metre of green waste.

Also keep composting material damp. Compost needs to be turned with a garden fork, approximately every eight weeks, to accelerate decomposition.

Compost should be well broken down within six months. Well composted material can be separated from green waste which needs more time to breakdown.

Green waste which requires more time to decompose can be put back into compost bins/heaps to continue the composting cycle.





## Containers

Plants in containers need watering every day. If possible put containers on a plant pot saucer and water into the saucer.

If a saucer is not used, the water will run through the container and run over the surrounding area.

Containers do well plunged in borders, with mulching as well.

Plants in containers will thrive using this method.





## Saving Water Challenge

Sustainable gardening is very important to us at Portsmouth Water. Sustainable gardening and drought tolerant gardens assist with the challenge of encouraging everyone to use less water outdoors but we also need to take the challenge further and look to save water indoors. That's why we offer a number of **FREE** water saving devices for our customers. See below for how to order.

Take our Saving Water Challenge for hints and tips on saving water. Why not see how you measure up? Find out if you are waterwise in and around the home with our quick and easy online Interactive Water Calculator. You are only a few clicks away from ordering your **FREE** water saving pack and learning new ways to save water by visiting our website at **[www.portsmouthwater.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthwater.co.uk)** or call **023 9249 9666** for more information and start saving water today.

### Free pack items



Shower head



Toothy timer



Shower timer



Save-a-flush bag

Water does not grow on trees...

...trees grow in water



Join Our Water Saving Campaign

